

**AGENDA
MAINE STATE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION
MEETING**

January 17, 2018

Gambling Control Board Conference Room

Department of Public Safety

45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine

Starting Time 9:00 a.m.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions:** William Varney, Chair
2. **Review and Approval of Minutes**
Review and Approval of Decision and Orders
3. **Reopening of the 2018 Race Date Hearing for requested minor adjustments.** Union Fair has requested to change its August 25 (Saturday) race date to August 24 (Friday) and to change the post time from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on August 19. Scarborough Downs has requested April 19 and 26, and November 15 and 22 as potential make-up days.
4. **Adjudicatory Hearings:**
 - a. **RE: David Del Pozzo, Complaint Numbers 2017 MSHRC 4 & 5.** Mr. Del Pozzo did not return his portion of the purse of \$1,500.00 from May 24, 2017 at Bangor Raceway or his purse of \$750.00 from May 27, 2017 at Scarborough Downs. It was instructed in the Decision and Order that the purses be returned by October 23, 2017. Owes \$1,125.00
 - b. **RE: Heidi Gibbs, Complaint Number 2017 MSHRC 29.** Ms. Gibbs is alleged to have violated MSHRC Rules Chapter 7 and 11. Ms. Gibbs is the trainer of record for the horse "Lets Get It All". A blood sample obtained from Lets Get It All following the First Non-Betting Race at the Skowhegan Fair on August 14, 2017 disclosed an elevated level of Betamethasone.
 - c. **RE: David Nelson, Complaint Number 2017 MSHRC 36.** Mr. Nelson is alleged to have violated MSHRC Rules Chapter 7 and 11. Mr. Nelson is the trainer of record for the horse "Bettor Angel". A blood sample obtained from Bettor Angel following the Tenth Race at the Windsor Fair on September 1, 2017 disclosed an elevated level of Dexamethasone.
 - d. **RE: Valerie Grondin, Complaint Number 2017 MSHRC 45.** Ms. Grondin is alleged to have violated MSHRC Rules Chapter 7 and 11. Ms. Grondin is the trainer of record for the horse "Pembroke Perfect". A blood sample obtained from Pembroke Perfect following the Ninth Race at Scarborough Downs on October 14, 2017 disclosed an elevated level of Betamethasone.
 - e. **RE: Dan Deslandes, Complaint Number 2017 MSHRC 48.** Mr. Deslandes is appealing the judges' decision regarding the alleged violation of Chapter 7, Section 54, 1-A and M during the Seventh Race at Bangor Raceway on November 3, 2017.

(over)

5. **Review of the Rulemaking Comments and Hearing Record.** On November 22, 2017, a Notice of Agency Rulemaking Proposal was published in Maine's five daily newspapers marking the beginning of the official comment period for proposed amendments to Chapters 1, 3, 7, 11, 13, 15 and 17 of the Commission's rules. The Commission held a public hearing on the proposed amendments December 14, 2017. The deadline for written comments was the close of business on December 29, 2017. The Commission will now review the comments and determine which amendments to adopt.
6. **Department Request for Commission Authorization to Expend Funds on Marketing for the 2018 Race Season.** During the 2017 race season, the Department requested authorization from the Commission to expend funds to support additional marketing of the sport. The Commission subsequently authorized expenditures up to \$10,000 for calendar year 2017. The Department has been working with industry representatives, a volunteer marketing consultant, and a contract marketing consultant to develop an integrated marketing plan for 2018 and beyond. The Department is seeking Commission authorization to expend funds to implement at least the basic elements of the integrated marketing plan for 2018.
7. **Department's Opposition to Motions for Continuances.** The Department sometimes receives requests to continue hearings to a future date. Oftentimes, those requests arise due to the licensee's absence from the State relating to racing in other jurisdictions or wintering in warmer locales. Currently, the Department has no rule, policy or written guidance on whether to oppose continuance requests. Consequently, the Department is seeking the Commission's input on appropriate grounds for opposing continuance request.
8. **Other business:**
 1. Consideration of ARCI Annual Membership Renewal
 2. Discussion of Policies Relating to Licensing
 3. Discussion of the Commission's Consent Agreement Policy
9. **Public Comment**
10. **Schedule of Future Meetings:**
11. **Adjourn**